

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 472

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to recognize John W. "Billy" Lynch on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable person is John W. "Billy" Lynch of Nashville who has compiled an unrivaled forty-five year career of distinguished service to the people of Davidson County spanning six mayoral administrations and has recently announced he will be taking his much deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, a native of Nashville, Billy Lynch began his service with the Metropolitan Government Human Resources Department in 1968 upon his graduation from Middle Tennessee State University with a Bachelor of Science degree; and

WHEREAS, at the age of twenty-five, Mr. Lynch became the youngest Assistant Director of any department in the Metropolitan Government; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lynch went on to obtain a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Middle Tennessee State University and was appointed Chief Deputy Sheriff in 1979, a position in which he served for eight years; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, Billy Lynch returned to the Human Resources Department as Director where he gained valuable managerial experience and became familiar with all aspects of the Metropolitan Government; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lynch was appointed as Interim Fire Chief from 2000 to 2001, prior to returning to his Director position in the Human Resources Department where he oversaw the merger of the Benefit Board and the Human Resources Department; and

WHEREAS, once again relying on Billy Lynch's exemplary leadership abilities, Mayor Bill Purcell appointed him as the Director of the Department of Public Works in 2002 where he served until 2012; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lynch's efforts at Public Works sought to ensure the delivery of high quality right-of-way maintenance and solid waste services to the public while always endeavoring to expend public monies wisely; and

WHEREAS, as director of human resources, Billy Lynch launched the city's first diversity training program. At Public Works, he helped put into place food truck regulations, recycling programs, and the privatization of curbside brush pickup; and

WHEREAS, responding to the Nashville Flood, Billy Lynch, who walks with a cane after major back problems and surgery, left his flooded house in a boat to get to the emergency management offices when it became apparent how bad things were getting; and

WHEREAS, arguably the finest display of Billy Lynch's skills as a manager and a true public servant was during the recovery from the catastrophic 2010 flood, where Mr. Lynch and his staff organized and directed the massive clean-up of the city in less than thirty days; and

WHEREAS, in April 2012, Mr. Lynch was again appointed as Interim Director/Chief of the Nashville Fire Department where he completed a comprehensive audit of upper level management practices within the Department and played an integral role in the effort to increase critical ambulance coverage to the residents of Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, even in retirement, Billy Lynch will be called upon by Metro Nashville as he will serve as a part-time special advisor for Mayor Karl Dean to assist with issues within the Fire Department and Public Works; and

WHEREAS, a devoted husband, proud father, and adoring grandfather, Mr. Lynch enjoys the love and support of his wife of forty-one years, Donna, and their three children and eleven grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Billy Lynch exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Billy Lynch has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of the citizens of Davidson County and the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to John W. "Billy" Lynch our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.